



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING LWI COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH FUNDING PROCESS

### BUDGET & FUNDING

**Are there any limitations on how we use the funding other than how it is listed in our budget detail? For instance, does LWI limit how much faculty salary they will cover for a given individual?**

There are no salary restrictions, such as NIH salary caps.

**Do you have a specific budget for materials science research? Or does it vary every year?**

There are no predetermined budget allocations between research objectives.

**How detailed must the budget be?**

General cost categories for white papers, detailed budgets for proposals. For white papers, list major categories such as salaries, graduate student support, equipment, supplies, indirect costs, and consultants. For full proposals, provide a detailed itemization of all budget items except materials and supplies.

**Is the average budget request about \$500K? Do you consider it to be too much for a single PI?**

LWI does not keep detailed statistics regarding budget requests. Each project is evaluated on its individual merits, including the scope of work, military benefit, and reasonableness of costs.

**Is there a cut line or consideration for projects that are capital intensive?**

Project awards are not expected to exceed \$1,500,000, but exceptional projects that score well in military merit and technical approach will be considered. Also, see *Equipment* regarding purchases.

**Is there a maximum cap on the budget a proposal could request?**

Project awards are not expected to exceed \$1,500,000, but exceptional projects that score well in military merit and technical approach will be considered.

**What type of funds does LWI distribute?**

The subawards are federal Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E) funds appropriated by Congress specifically for LWI through the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL). Successful offerors will be asked to sign cost-reimbursable subaward agreements with LWI.

## **COLLABORATION**

### **Are multi-institutional proposals encouraged? What about a partnership between university and industry in jointly submitting a proposal?**

LWI encourages collaboration to leverage capabilities, address priority research objectives, and develop technology in Missouri. Partnerships between industry and university researchers are welcome. However, the prime institution must perform at least 50% of the work, the percentage being measured by both direct and indirect costs.

### **Can a professor involve a company that he/she owns as a collaborator in the submittal?**

Researchers will be expected to comply with all applicable Federal, institutional, and university conflict of interest policies.

### **Does it help to have a small business in the lead of collaborative efforts?**

LWI does not have any “set-asides” (mandatory participation levels for socially or economically disadvantaged organizations) in its solicitation, nor are there any evaluation factors pertaining to “set-asides.”

### **With multiple institution proposals with all serving as Co-PIs, who should submit the proposal?**

The prime institution must perform at least 50% of the work, the percentage being measured by both direct and indirect costs. Furthermore, the PI must be from the prime institution.

### **With multiple universities, do we list the others as subcontractors or together?**

One institution must serve as the prime offeror, with the PI coming from that institution. All others are listed as subcontractors.

### **Would we list subcontractor consultants as Co-Principal Investigators?**

LWI expects that the designation of “Co-Principal Investigator” will be used for internal faculty credit considerations where there are multiple faculty members within a single university. Each prime offeror is expected to identify an individual who will serve as the contractual Principal Investigator.

## **COMMERCIALIZATION**

### **While these are being developed for the military, how important is the commercialization of the technology in the selections (as in SBIRs)?**

Commercial potential and support of a public purpose are important components of the research effort.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

### **Will LWI disclose the contents of white papers and proposals to others outside of LWI?**

Yes, under very limited circumstances. LWI discloses the contents only for the purpose of evaluation.

## **DURATION**

### **What has the policy been with no cost extensions given the short timeline duration?**

Requests for no cost time extensions are evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the Army Research Laboratory.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Government agencies can compete, but feel they won't get funded. Is this true?**

Commercial, not-for-profit, and/or government entities may be part of project teams. LWI does not categorically eliminate offers from consideration. All responsive proposals receive full consideration.

## EQUIPMENT

### **Can we purchase equipment? If so, is there a cost limit? If LWI funds are used for equipment, who owns the equipment and has access once the project ends? What are the limitations on equipment purchases using LWI funds?**

Expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable. "Special purpose equipment" means equipment that is used only for research, medical, scientific, or other technical activities.

Expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable. "General purpose equipment" means equipment, the use of which is not limited only to research, medical, scientific or other technical activities. Examples of general purpose equipment include office equipment and furnishings, air conditioning equipment, reproduction and printing equipment, motor vehicles, and automatic data processing equipment.

Universities are encouraged to confer with their Office of Sponsored Programs/Research regarding their institutions' policies and OMB Circular A-21.

Title to equipment costing \$5,000 or more that is purchased or fabricated with research funds or collaborator cost sharing funds, as direct costs of the project or program, shall unconditionally vest with the researcher's institution upon acquisition without further obligation to LWI or ARL, subject to the conditions specified in Article 17 of the U. S. Army Research Office General Terms and Conditions for Grant Awards to Educational Institutions and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

### **Is arranging government furnished equipment (GFE) brought to FLW seen as a positive in the selection process? How about GFE requested of FLW?**

Neither scenario is an evaluation criterion.

## FACILITIES

### **If a proposal requires use of FLW facilities for blast testing, how do we find out the appropriate protocols for such activities?**

Offerors can contact Dorsey Newcomb, Technical Program Officer at 573-329-8502, ext. 2322.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

### **How does patentable technology work with LWI? Does the research organization own the rights or are they ceded to the military?**

Refer to DoD Grant Agreement Regulations Part 32 §32.36 Intangible property or Part 34 §34.25 Intellectual property developed or produced under awards, as appropriate.

## LOCAL PRESENCE

### **For collaborative efforts, is it better for the overall PI to be in Missouri?**

There is no requirement for the PI to be in Missouri. LWI does favor proposals for projects to be executed in whole or in part inside the state of Missouri.

**If an organization has no Missouri presence, will this impact the proposal evaluation score?**

LWI does favor proposals for projects to be executed in whole or in part inside the state of Missouri.

## **OBJECTIVES**

**Are real-world demonstrations at FLW or lab experiments more important to this RFP?**

Neither is preferred to the other.

**Do you support research related to highly reinforced materials?**

If it supports the research objectives in the RFP.

**Is it good to propose projects that span technical areas or to focus on a single one?**

There is no preferred approach.

**Is there a link to TRADOC Pamphlet 525-66?**

<http://www.tradoc.army.mil/tpubs/pamndx.htm>

**Is there an interest in development of technologies to detect IEDs?**

There is interest in detecting and deterring placement of IEDs.

## **PAGE LIMIT**

**Do I understand that we should not include a manual cover page because the system will provide one?**

Correct. The cover page will be generated by the KITS system, using the information you provide in your user registration and white paper submission.

**Do you have a template or examples of LWI white papers?**

No.

**What is included in the page limit? The cover page? The abstract?**

The cover page and abstract count as one page, regardless of their length as printed out. The rest of the white paper content – except subcontract commitment letters – is limited to six pages.

**Why do you collect the abstract information, and how is it used?**

The abstract information is being collected to assist reviewers and for publication after projects have been awarded. Abstracts for submittals that are not awarded will not be published or used for any other purpose.

## **PAST PROJECTS**

**How does a past or current LWI award factor into the current RFP?**

Having a prior LWI award does not affect the likelihood of selection (*i.e.*, no advantage to having been a prior recipient). However, past performance is an evaluation criterion for prior participants.

**When do the 2007 and 2008 projects post posters, briefs, etc., so we can see LWI results?**

The 2007 projects were just completed in December 2008. The 2008 projects are in progress. We do not anticipate disclosure of any results prior to the closing date of this solicitation.

## **PROCESS**

Can white papers or proposals be submitted in hard copy rather than in electronic format?

No. All documents must be prepared in Portable Document Format (.PDF) and submitted to LWI via the KITS portal.

**Does negotiation of subaward agreements for successful offerors have to be face-to-face?**

No. LWI anticipates communicating via email and telephone.

**How will we be notified about our white paper?**

By e-mail, whether successful or unsuccessful.

**If I don't hear that my white paper has been selected for full proposal by the date in the RFP, should I assume that it was rejected?**

No. LWI will notify each offeror as to the disposition of his/her white paper and will make every effort to follow the schedule in the RFP. Any schedule changes will be posted to the LWI homepage.

**Is there a limit on the number of white papers that can be submitted by one PI or one organization?**

No.

**What terms and conditions will LWI require of successful offerors?**

All subawards are subject to the following, modified as appropriate:

- Cooperative Agreement W911NF-07-2-0062
- 32 CFR Part 32, or 32 CFR Part 34, as applicable
- The Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DODGARs), including addenda in effect as of the beginning date of the subaward period of performance
- U.S. Army Research Office (ARO) General Terms and Conditions for Cooperative Agreement Awards to Educational Institutions and other Non-Profit Organizations and the General Terms and Conditions for Grant Awards to For-Profit Organization

**Who reviews the proposals? Internal scientists or do you send it to universities?**

All submittals are reviewed by the Army (ARL / MANSCEN), independent technical reviewers, and LWI staff.

**Will LWI share reviewer comments for white papers and proposals with offerors?**

Yes. LWI will provide reviewer comments without attribution (i.e., anonymously), which may help offerors prepare better white papers and proposals.

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**How much interaction would one expect to have with LWI PM? Would there be an expectation for a monthly or quarterly Project Management Review?**

All projects are assigned an Army Subject Matter Expert (SME). In addition to regular project reporting to the LWI Technical Program Officer, researchers can expect to interact with their SMEs at critical project junctures.

## **SECURITY**

### **How will LWI handle situations where a project requires or generates classified information?**

LWI cannot accept classified white papers or proposals. For projects requiring access to classified information, offerors will state the information access and storage requirements in white paper/proposal and select the appropriate "check box" in the KITS system. If projects generate classified information, offerors will have to arrange for authorization for storage of classified information. All arrangements regarding classified information will be made through the Army Research Laboratory.

### **Must all personnel working on an LWI-funded project be US citizens?**

No. The solicitation contains no access or dissemination controls. Researchers are expected to be familiar with and comply with all applicable export control regulations in the conduct of their research.